Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 10, 17, and 41 as follows. Please cancel claims 2-5, 8, 11-14, 18-21, 24, 33, 34 and 44 without prejudice to continued prosecution. Please add new claims 45-53 as follows. The claims and their status are shown below.

1. (Currently amended) A method of screening for a ~~preventive or~~ therapeutic agent for cancer, wherein the method comprises ~~using serine/threonine kinase Pim-1 or a partial peptide thereof, or a salt thereof~~ the steps of:

(a) contacting a test substance with serine/threonine kinase Pim-1 or a partial peptide thereof, or a salt thereof;

(b) detecting the phosphorylation activity of serine/threonine kinase Pim-1; and

(c) identifying a compound that inhibits the phosphorylation activity of serine/threonine kinase Pim-1 as a therapeutic agent for cancer.

2-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently amended) A method of screening for an apoptosis-inducing agent, wherein the method comprises ~~using serine/threonine kinase Pim-1 or a partial peptide thereof, or a salt thereof~~ the steps of:

(a) contacting a test substance with serine/threonine kinase Pim-1 or a partial peptide thereof, or a salt thereof;

(b) detecting the phosphorylation activity of serine/threonine kinase Pim-1; and

(c) identifying a compound that inhibits the phosphorylation activity of serine/threonine kinase Pim-1 as an apoptosis-inducing agent.

11-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently amended) A method of screening for an anticancer agent potentiator, wherein the method comprises ~~using serine/threonine kinase Pim-1 or a partial peptide thereof, or a salt thereof~~ the steps of:

(a) contacting a test substance with serine/threonine kinase Pim-1 or a partial peptide thereof, or a salt thereof;

(b) detecting the phosphorylation activity of serine/threonine kinase Pim-1; and

(c) identifying a compound that inhibits the phosphorylation activity of serine/threonine kinase Pim-1 as an anticancer agent potentiator.

18-40. (Cancelled)

41. (Currently amended) A method of screening for substances that enhance or inhibit the activity of serine/threonine kinase Pim-1, wherein the method comprises the steps of:

(a) contacting a test substance with serine/threonine kinase Pim-1 or a partial peptide thereof, or a salt thereof; ~~and~~

(b) detecting the phosphorylation activity of serine/threonine kinase Pim-1; and

(c) identifying a substance that enhances or inhibits the activity of serine/threonine kinase Pim-1.

42. (Original) The method of claim 41, wherein the phosphorylation activity is detected by using, as an indicator, a change in the expression level of a reporter gene that is activated in response to binding of a serine/threonine kinase Pim-1 phosphorylation substrate.

43. (Original) The method of claim 41, wherein the phosphorylation activity is detected using an antibody that recognizes the phosphorylated form of the serine/threonine kinase Pim-1 phosphorylation substrate.

44. (Canceled)

45. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the phosphorylation activity is detected by using, as an indicator, a change in the expression level of a reporter gene that is activated in response to binding of a serine/threonine kinase Pim-1 phosphorylation substrate.

46. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the phosphorylation activity is detected using an antibody that recognizes the phosphorylated form of the serine/threonine kinase Pim-1 phosphorylation substrate.

47. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein the phosphorylation activity is detected by using, as an indicator, a change in the expression level of a reporter gene that is activated in response to binding of a serine/threonine kinase Pim-1 phosphorylation substrate.

48. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein the phosphorylation activity is detected using an antibody that recognizes the phosphorylated form of the serine/threonine kinase Pim-1 phosphorylation substrate.

49. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the phosphorylation activity is detected by using, as an indicator, a change in the expression level of a reporter gene that is activated in response to binding of a serine/threonine kinase Pim-1 phosphorylation substrate.

50. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the phosphorylation activity is detected using an antibody that recognizes the phosphorylated form of the serine/threonine kinase Pim-1 phosphorylation substrate.

51. (New) The method of claim 1, 45, or 46, wherein said therapeutic agent for cancer is a therapeutic agent for pancreatic cancer.

52. (New) The method of claim 10, 47, or 48, wherein said apoptosis-inducing agent is an apoptosis-inducing agent for pancreatic cancer.

53. (New) The method of claim 17, 49, or 50, wherein said anticancer agent potentiator is an anticancer agent potentiator for pancreatic cancer.